

Rainbow-bird, Grey Fantail and White-winged Triller, the nomadic Brown Honeyeater, and the Southern Scrub-robin, Brown Thornbill, Nankeen Kestrel and Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike.

Of the 30 species in the second half of the 1946 list those not re-located were migrants, nomads, stragglers to the forest or relative rarities and none of these was of more than 10% frequency in 1946.

I should say that my observations indicate very little change in the avian population in the study area, though at the time of my visit the Red-capped Robin population appeared to be substantially reduced.

Two species rare in 1946 were recorded—the Western Yellow Robin and the Yellow-plumed Honeyeater.

Many wheatbelt townsites where towns have failed to develop, or have declined, have areas of native vegetation comparable with that at Bilbarin. These are apparently large enough to sustain a varied, indeed, a rich, population of bird species and could be significant as refuges for species hard pressed by rapid development in these areas.

—ERIC H. SEDGWICK, Harvey.

Range Extensions in Some Western Australian Birds.—As a result of field collections on behalf of the Chicago Natural History Museum I have been able to discover some additions to the known ranges of local birds. Among these are the following:

Grey-crowned Babbler (*Pomatostomus temporalis*). In their earlier editions of the *Birds of Western Australia* Serventy and Whittell gave the southern range of this North-West species as the Wooramel River and the upper Murchison. In the third edition (1962) they gave more precise southern limits in Mileura Station and Karalundi Mission (36 miles north of Meekatharra). On October 26, 1965, I was surprised to see a single bird of the species in a mulga thicket 8 miles south of Wurarga and 6 miles north of Gullewa. It was collected and found to be an adult male with fully pneumatized skull and medium-sized gonads (7.6 x 5.4 mm.). There were no other individuals in the vicinity. This locality is about 160 miles south-west of Mileura and thus represents a very substantial extension of the recorded range of the species. The general region has been tolerably well-worked by ornithologists, particularly earlier in this century. F. Lawson Whitlock in his paper on the birds of the East Murchison (*Emu*, 9, 1910: 197) commented thus on its status: "I only met with this species around Milly Pool [20 miles north-west of Wiluna] and further to the north-west, along the Peak Hill stock route. I question if it occurs much further south."

Blue-breasted Wren (*Malurus pulcherrimus*): The boundary between the two chestnut-shouldered wrens, *pulcherrimus* and *lamberti*, can only be satisfactorily determined by collecting. D. L. Serventy (*Emu*, 51, 1951: 115) gives a series of localities. I am now able to add Bunjil (between Percinjori and Latham) as a locality for *M. pulcherrimus*, a pair, including a fine male in full plumage.

being collected there. This represents a slight eastward extension of the species' reeordred range.

Dusky Wood-Swallow (*Artamus cyanopterus*): Serventy and Whittell (*ibid.*, 3rd edn., p. 399) state that this wood-swallow probably ranged in former times to the mulga-euealypt line and had been reeordred as far north as Geraldton and Perenjori. Its range was now eontraeting to the south-west and south and it was being replaeed by the Blaek-faeed Wood-Swallow (*A. cinereus*). That *A. cyanopterus* may still range as far north as the mulga line, at least at times, was proved on June 9, 1965, when I saw a floek of about 25 birds 45 miles south-west of Paynes Find, and eolleeted speimens.

Grey Honeyeater (*Conopophila (Lacustroica) whitci*): My reeord of this speeies does not represent any extension of range but as this speeies is so rarely reeognised by observers it may be worth while to plaee on reeord that I eolleeted a speeimen 3 miles west of Thundelarra Homestead on November 1, 1964, when eolleeting for the G. W. Cottrell Jr. Expedition on behalf of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard. The bird was a young individual with an ineompletely pneumatised skull, and eould not be sexed.

Black-faeed Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax fuscescens*). The range of this speeies in Western Australia is given by Serventy and Whittell (*ibid.*, p. 112) as "the islands of the Arehipelago of the Reeherehe and the adjoining mainland, eastwards to Israelite Bay." When with the Cottrell Expedition (November 1964) I observed the speeies some 80 miles to the westward of the Reeherehe Islands. There was a small group of 3-4 birds on roeks about 3 miles east of Hopetoun.

—A. G. MATHEWS, South Perth.

Obtaining Spinifex Gum.—At a meeting of the W.A. Naturalists' Club (February 1964) Mr. A. G. Mathews gave a very interesting description of the gathering of *Kiti* or spinifex (*Triodia*) gum, which was later published (*W. Austr. Nat.*, 9: 96). His aeount agrees with my observations in the Warburton Range Mission and Cundeelee Mission areas; the former being basically Wongai people and the latter a mixture of Wongai, Pitjandjara and Karonie people but retaining their tribal identities.

While I was eolleeting in the Fortescue River and Sherlock River area I was assisted by various loeal residents including eoloured people. One sueh assistant was George, who was eurrently passing through the stations hunting dogs. He agreed to show me "plenty animals." Unfortunately they usually were gone upon our arrival and a wry shrug with the muttered "old eamp that one!" indieated another dry run.

On being asked about *Kiti* he was very vague, saying that it eame from the "hills" with an expressive lift of the ehin. On pressing him he left me, went into a ravine and eame baek about 10 minutes later with a lump of *Kiti* about as big as a ehild's fist. He ex-